

The decision by
Sinclar Broadcasting
to force their
stations to
broadcast a blatant
propaganda piece in
the two weeks
before the election
is a clear example
of both the dangers
of media
consolidation, and
of the need of FCC
to again regulate
the use of the
public airwaves in
order to avoid
precisely this sort
of abuse. If the FCC
allows stations to
run inflammatory
propaganda as "news"
a few days before a
national election,
it raises the
question of whether
there is any
partisan political
use of the public
airwaves to which
the current
commissioners would
object. This would
represent a radical
break with decades
of bipartisan
consensus regarding
the need for the
FCC, for the health
of democracy and to
comply with existing
law, to regulate
both the
consolidation of
station ownership
and batantly
partisan uses of the
public airwaves.